Collateral Security/Guarantees for Sanction of Loans to Farmers

4546. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that public sector banks ask for collateral security by way of mortgage of land or third party guarantee to sanction agricultural loan to farmers which is an irritant to the farmers in getting loans from the banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what remedial measures Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI R. JANARTHANAM): (a) to (c) As reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), security norms prescribed for advances to agriculture are liberal as compared to industry. It was earlier prescribed by RBI that the banks are not required to take collateral security by way of mortgage of land or third party guarantee for crop loans and term loans (where movable assets are created) upto Rs. 25,000/- granted by them for agricultural purposes. In case of term loans for agriculture where movable assets are not created, banks are not required to obtain mortgage of land as security for loan amount upto Rs. 10,000/-. The above security norms have since been revised and banks have been advised that they may use their discretion on matters relating to security/margin requirements for agricultural loans above Rs. 10,000/-.

Target set for disinvestment

4547. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the targets set for disinvestment during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98;

(b) whether these have been realised;

(c) the reasons for the poor performance in this regard;

(d) the details of measures stipulated to improve the position; and

(e) the target set for disinvestment during 1998-99?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) The targets set for disinvestment and the actual realisation are as follows:—

(Rs. in Crores)

	Target set for Disinvestment	Actual Realisation
1995-96	7,000	352
1996-97	5,000	455
1997-98	4,800	906

(c) The amount targetted could not be realised due to highly volatile and adverse market conditions in these years.

(d) The Government has decided to partially disinvest its equity in Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL), Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (VSNL) and Container Corporation of India Ltd. (CONCOR) during the year 1998-99. The details of offering will be worked out at the relevant time with reference to prevailing market conditions and other factors. The process of strategic Sale/Alliance in respect of Modern Food Industries Ltd. (MFIL), Bharat Aluminium Co. Ltd. (BALCO), Kudremukh Iron Ore Co. Ltd. (KIOCL), India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) and Bongaigaon Refineries & Petrochemicals Ltd. (BRPL) are also in progress.

(e) The target for 1998-99 is Rs. 5,000 crores.

बैंक में खाता खोलने के लिए परमानेंट एकाउंट नम्बर की आवश्यकता

4548. **श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र:** क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि अब बैंक में नया खाता खोलने के लिए भी स्थायी खाता क्रमांक (परमानेंट एकाउंट नम्बर) की आवश्यकता पड़ेगी; और